

**To:** Ferrell, Mark[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]  
**From:** Smith, Bonnie  
**Sent:** Tue 1/21/2014 7:12:59 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: SEJ, SPJ Say Agency Media Obstacles Hurt Public Confidence in Water, Safety  
[SEJStatementVWWater3.doc](#)

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**From:** Heron, Donna  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 9:39:13 AM  
**To:** Garvin, Shawn; Ryan, Daniel; duteau, helen; Hodgkiss, Kathy; Smith, Bonnie; Seneca, Roy; Sternberg, David; White, Terri-A; schaffer, joan  
**Subject:** FW: SEJ, SPJ Say Agency Media Obstacles Hurt Public Confidence in Water, Safety

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**From:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy @gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 3:26 PM  
**To:** gina@epa.gov  
**Cc:** Reynolds, Thomas; Johnson, Alisha; Hull, George; R3 RA; Heron, Donna  
**Subject:** SEJ, SPJ Say Agency Media Obstacles Hurt Public Confidence in Water, Safety

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

Attached is a letter from the Society of Environmental Journalists and the Society of Professional Journalists. SEJ and SPJ complain, on behalf of their members, of lack of access to agency officials and experts during the water contamination crisis this month in Charlotte, WV.

We are asking EPA and other agencies to remove obstacles to public information erected by the public affairs office. These obstacles harm public confidence in drinking water and chemical safety. We urge EPA to adopt greater transparency during crises of this kind.

Sincerely,

Beth Parke, Executive Director  
Society of Environmental Journalists

Linda Petersen, Chair, Freedom of Information Committee  
Society of Professional Journalists

Joseph A. Davis, Ph.D, Director  
SEJ Watchdog Project

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Joseph A. Davis, Ph.D., Editor, WatchDog  
Society of Environmental Journalists  
h/o: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy cel: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy